

El Rancho Verde MAC Meeting  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2005**

**Council Members Present:**

Robb Bourland	Joe Ayala
William Hughes	Bedalia Valeds-Bovin

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

Chairman Bourland motioned to accept the minutes as read. Council Member Ayala seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The MAC members opened the meeting by introducing themselves to the community. Chairman Bourland passed out a handout outlining the duties of the Municipal Advisory Council and who is eligible to participate in the meetings.

**Reports**

Field Representative – Lisha Smith

- Currently there are several positions open on various County commissions, committees and boards. Any residents interested in representing the 5<sup>th</sup> District as a member of a board or commission can file an application with Supervisor Gonzales' office. Please contact 387-4565 for more information.
- Ms. Smith reported that Supervisor Gonzales allocated \$900,000 to add lighting to Jerry Eaves Park in the City of Rialto. The lighting will help alleviate some of the overcrowding of the fields by allowing teams to practice in the evening.
- The County has initiated a Health County program. Supervisor Gonzales will be working in a lead roll to help design and implement the program.
- The Board of Supervisors approved the assignment of 2 Sergeants and 10 Deputies from the Sheriff's Department to assist in the anti-gang taskforce in the City of San Bernardino.

Detective Frank Root – Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff's Department is working with the San Bernardino City Police Department to help saturate heavy crime areas within the city. The Sheriff's anti-gang taskforce, the San Bernardino Movement Against Street Hoodlums (SMASH), is also working closely with County and City officials to suppress gang activity.

Crime Stats for North Rialto

Detective Root took questions from the floor.

*What is the response time for residents in the El Rancho Verde area once a call is made to the Sheriff's Dept.?*

Response times vary depending upon a number of factors. The time of day, the number of Deputies on duty and whether other crimes are in progress all affect the response time of a call. The Sheriff's Dept. prioritizes calls based upon the severity of the crime. For example, if all units on duty are at the scene of one crime, then one or two units may respond to a second call depending on the crime and the number of officers required.

*What is SMASH?*

SMASH (San Bernardino Against Street Hoodlums) is the County Sheriff's specialized taskforce for addressing gang related crimes. It was re-instituted five or six months ago. SMASH is made up of two active teams with six deputies per team. They work along side other law enforcement agencies specifically focusing on gang and gang related crimes.

*Why does the dispatcher ask so many questions when receiving a 911 call? Does the Sheriff's Dept. wait for all the questions to be answered before sending Sheriffs to respond?*

The dispatchers' questions help the deputies prepare for what they may face in response to a crime. The type of crime, the number of suspects and the number of victims all help the officers know what to face prior to arriving on the scene. Typically the dispatchers do not wait until all questions are answered prior to dispatching deputies.

*What can we do to get involved in security and safety in our own community (El Rancho Verde)?*

The Sheriff's Dept. currently has a volunteer citizen patrol program. Citizens are trained in a variety of procedures that allow them to help serve as safety personnel. If a volunteer would prefer to work within their own community the Sheriff's Dept. is willing to accommodate their request.

#### The Median

Chairman Bourland asked Ms. Smith to address the points of inquiry raised at the previous MAC meeting.

*The MAC requested a clarification of the percentage of votes needed to secure the passing of a special district initiative.*

The special district vote provides two options. The first option is an assessment that would require a simple majority (51%) of owners within the designated area, who respond to the ballot, to pass. The second option is a special tax that would require a 2/3 majority of registered voters in the area to pass. This vote would include all residents in the area, be they property owners or renters.

*The MAC also requested the number of homes located in the unincorporated areas not adjacent to the El Rancho Verde community.*

There are a total of 1099 homes in the unincorporated areas of North Rialto. Of those homes, 630 are located in the El Rancho Verde Country Club area and 469 homes are in the County pockets south of Riverside Ave.

*Is the \$350,000 guaranteed for the median project regardless of any changes within the Supervisor's office?*

The funds have been allocated specifically for the improvement project of the Riverside Ave. median. The funding will be available despite any changes in the 5<sup>th</sup> District office.

*What are some alternative measures available to help reduce the overall costs of the initial improvement project? For example, is it necessary to use a landscape architect? Will the use of non-potable water reduce maintenance fees?*

The County requires a landscape architect in the design process of the project. The current fee proposal for the design and management of the project is \$32,420,000, approximately 10% of the \$350,000 budget.

Use of non-potable water may or may not reduce maintenance fees depending on the accessibility of the water. For instance, we do not know if there are pipes directing non-potable water to the median site.

#### San Bernardino County Special Districts – Jeff Rigney

Mr. Rigney explained that current consultant company has worked with Special Districts in the past and believes that their bid of 10% is very reasonable. He also stated that the Dept. of Special Districts will assess a fee for administrative costs but they will not do so upfront to relieve some of the financial burden on the residents.

Mr. Rigney also reported that the consultants would most likely provide a few variations on the design of the median. This would give the community an opportunity to select a design that may reduce costs and provide a unique look.

Special Districts will not have information available for the January 10<sup>th</sup> MAC meeting but will check with the design consultant to see if information will be ready for the February meeting.

#### **Public Comment:**

Ms. Brown is a resident in the unincorporated area of North Rialto. She is one of four homeowners who currently pay a landscaping tax to the City of Rialto to help maintain the median adjacent to her home. She identified the four properties: 6210 Riverside Ave., 6194 Riverside Ave., 6184 Riverside Ave., and 6174 Riverside Ave.

#### **Action Items**

Council Member Ayala motioned to recommend that the Supervisor accept the current consultant's bid for the design/management of the median project. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

Council Member Ayala motioned to focus the special district on the 630 homes located in the El Rancho Verde community. This would ensure that the homeowners directly affected by the median project would be the only ones required to pay the additional assessment. The motion amended to exclude those four residences currently paying a landscaping tax to the City of Rialto to avoid them being double taxed. It was seconded and all were in favor.

Since Special Districts needs time to prepare their presentation, Chairman Bourland entertained a motion to cancel the January 10<sup>th</sup> MAC meeting. The motion was seconded and all were in favor. The next MAC meeting date falls on February 14<sup>th</sup>, but the Council is considering moving the date to Feb. 21. Chairman Bourland asked Ms. Smith to see if a Feb. 21 meeting would conflict with any other scheduled meetings on the Supervisor's calendar and to get back to him with an available date.

#### **Member Reports**

##### Council Member Ayala

Council Member Ayala is concerned with the quality of service and available staff at local medical facilities. He stated that the service in some emergency rooms after 9 p.m. is poor and the community should take note in hopes of supporting improvements.

Chairman Bourland

Chairman Bourland requested that the Supervisor's office look into the possibility of including repair of utility boxes along Riverside Ave in the project proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m. to the next meeting tentatively scheduled for February 14, 2006.

Submitted by: Dan Flores – El Rancho Verde MAC Secretary (909) 387-4565